

REMARKS

With this Amendment, claim 17 is cancelled. Therefore, claims 1-16 and 18-25 are all the claims currently pending in this Application.

Priority Claim and Submission of Priority Document — Important

Applicants claimed priority from JP 2002-291559 with the original filing of this Application on October 1, 2003. A certified copy of the priority document was submitted on June 23, 2004. The Examiner has not yet acknowledged Applicant's claim to foreign priority or the receipt of the certified copy.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner make these acknowledgements in the next Office communication.

Information Disclosure Statement

An IDS was submitted on October 29, 2007. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the references listed therein and provide Applicant with a signed and initialed copy of the PTO form.

Specification

The specification is objected to due to informalities. Specifically, the Examiner indicates that "print head unit 28" within paragraph [0047] on page 13 should be corrected to "print head 28". With this Amendment, Applicant amends paragraph [0047] accordingly.

Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to the specification be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claim Amendments and Cancellations

With this Amendment, claim 17 is cancelled. Claims 3 and 11 are amended to correct minor informalities. Claims 1, 9, and 18 are amended for clarity and precision of language.

Claim Objections

Claims 3, 11, and 17 are objected to due to informalities. Claims 3 and 11 are amended, as shown, to correct these informalities. Claim 17 is cancelled.

Applicant respectfully requests that the objections be reconsidered and withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph

Claims 1, 9, 17, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. The Examiner alleges that the phrase “non-exchangeable print head” is not supported in the originally-filed Application. With this Amendment, Applicant amends claims 1, 9, and 18, as shown. Claim 17 is cancelled.

Applicant respectfully requests that the §112 rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Prior Art Rejections — Nunokawa, Otsuka, Fuse, and Sievert

Claims 1-3, 5, 17-20, 22, and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by Nunokawa (U.S. Patent 6,962,404). Claims 4 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Nunokawa, in view of Ohtsuka (U.S. Patent 6,145,950). Claims 6, 7, and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Nunokawa, in view of Fuse (U.S. Patent 5,539,434). Claims 8 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Nunokawa, in view of Sievert (U.S. Patent 6,883,892). Claim 17 is cancelled.

Without commenting on the substantive merits of the Examiner's rejections, Applicant is hereby traversing the prior art rejection of claims 1-8 and 18-25 by perfecting the claim to foreign priority.

Applicant notes that the Nunokawa issued as a patent on November 8, 2005, which is after the U.S. filing date of the present Application (October 1, 2003), and that Nunokawa was published on May 20, 2004, which is also after the filing date of the present Application. Therefore, Nunokawa is only available as prior art against the present Application under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

Additionally, Nunokawa was first filed in the USPTO on August 19, 2003 which is after the filing date of Applicant's priority document (JP 2002-291559, filed October 3, 2002). Thus, Applicant submits herewith a certified English translation of the priority document JP 2002-291-559 to perfect Applicant's claim to foreign priority. Therefore, Applicant notes that Nunokawa is no longer available as prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102, and hereby requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the above rejections.

Prior Art Rejections — Takahashi, Otsuka, Fuse, and Sievert

Claims 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by Takahashi (U.S. Patent 6,532,026). Claims 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Takahashi, in view of Otsuka. Claims 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Takahashi, in view of Fuse. claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Takahashi, in view of Sievert. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Regarding independent claim 9, Applicant submits that none of the cited references teaches or suggests an ink cartridge comprising “an ink set including a combination of at least two ink tanks, each containing ink to be supplied to each of the nozzle groups, wherein each ink set includes at least one separable ink tank which is separable from the print head, such that in a first ink set of the printing apparatus, at least the separable ink tank is replaceable with another ink tank containing a different type of ink, thereby changing combination of ink tanks therein to form a second ink set, without replacing the print head” as recited.

Specifically, according to Takahashi, the separation of an ink tank from the printer requires the separation of the print head to which the ink tank is attached. There is no teaching or suggestion of an ink tank separable from a print head. None of the other cited references remedy this deficiency of Takahashi.

Therefore, Applicant submits that claim 9 is patentable over the cited references and that claims 10-16 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependence on claim 9. Applicant respectfully requests that the prior art rejections of claims 9-16 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Application No.: 10/674,808

Q77778

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.


Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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CUSTOMER NUMBER



Laura Moskowitz
Registration No. 55,470

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